

Message Text

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12

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SUBJECT: UN COMMITTEE ON RESTRUCTURING--FEBRUARY 13

REF: USUN 572

1. HIGHLIGHTS OF STATEMENTS AT THE FEB 13 SESSION OF THE
AD HOC COMITE ON RESTRUCTURING AS FOLLOWS.

A. WHO DIRECTOR-GENERAL MAHLER CALLED FOR AN INTER-
SECTORAL APPROACH TO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND FOR SACRIFICES
OF NATIONAL SOVEREIGNTY IN ORDER TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT
A PROGRAM TO OVERCOME "SOCIAL POVERTY." HE ENVISAGED
STRENGTHENED LEADERSHIP OF UN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS WITH
POLITICAL SUPPORT BY MEMBER STATES AND INCREASED TECHNICAL
INPUT (REINFORCED BY JOINT PLANNING) BY SPECIALIZED
AGENCIES AND OTHER UN BODIES. HE CALLED FOR NEW FORMS OF
TECHNICAL COOPERATION (TO SUPPORT NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS)
AND DECENTRALIZED OPERATIONAL AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY.

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B. FRG (YORK) SUGGESTED A WIDE MANDATE FOR THE INTER-SESSIONAL WORKING GROUP WITH FURTHER GUIDELINES TO BE DEVELOPED IN THE COURSE OF ITS OPERATIONS. WHILE ACCEPTING THE EXPERTS REPORT AS A BASIS FOR DIAGNOSIS, HE RESERVED THE FRG POSITION ON THE RECOMMENDATIONS. YORK PROPOSED THAT THE COMITE FOCUS ON INTERGOVERNMENT DECISION-MAKING MACHINERY, THE INTERNATIONAL SECRETARIAT AND COORDINATION. ON SPECIFIC ISSUES HE SAID THAT THE FRG DOES NOT AGREE WITH ELIMINATING THE ECOSOC SUBSIDIARY BODIES, FAVORED SHORTER AND MORE FOCUSED ECOSOC MEETINGS, HOPED THAT WORLD CONFERENCES WOULD BE LESS FREQUENT, DID NOT WANT TO SEE WELL ESTABLISHED ENTITIES (UNDP, UNICEF ETC) MERGED, AND WAS "CAUTIOUS" ABOUT THE PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH A DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS. IN GENERAL, HE CONCLUDED, THE FRG FAVORED A GRADUALIST APPROACH TO THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE.

C. FRANCE (ROUGET) OBJECTED TO ELIMINATING THE ECOSOC SUBSIDIARY BODIES AND SAID THAT MOST UN BODIES SHOULD BE LEFT ESSENTIALLY UNCHANGED. HE EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE PRACTICAL POSSIBILITY OF ABOLISHING ANY UN BODY. HE SUGGESTED ECOSOC NOT DEBATE IN SUBSTANCE PROBLEMS WHICH WERE DEALT WITH IN OTHER FORA BUT SHOULD SERVE AS A "DIS-PATCHING CENTER." ROUGET ARGUED THAT IT WAS INAPPROPRIATE TO THINK OF DEPOLITICIZING UN OPERATIONS EVEN ON THE TECHNICAL LEVEL. HE SAID THAT MEMBER STATES HAD TO ACCEPT MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR UN STRUCTURAL PROBLEMS (I.E., PUSHING PET PROJECTS) AND THUS THE MAJOR GOAL OF THE RESTRUCTURING EXERCISE SHOULD BE TO AGREE ON BROAD GUIDELINES TO BE FOLLOWED BY STATES. FINALLY, ROUGET CALLED FOR MORE ACTIVE SECT PARTICIPATION IN THE DELIBERATIONS OF UN BODIES.

D. ITALY (ROSSI) PROPOSED THAT THE COMITE FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING SPECIFIC PROBLEM AREAS: 1) ECOSOC--STRENGTHENING COORDINATION AUTHORITY, REORGANIZATION OF WORK PROGRAM, NEGOTIATING METHODS; 2) SUBSIDIARY BODIES--RATIONALIZATION (ELIMINATION AND/OR MERGING), REVISION OF WORK PROGRAM; 3) ROLE OF THE BUREAU AND SECRETARIAT--INCREASED RESPONSIBILITY FOR INITIATIVES, COORDINATION AND INTERVENTION IN UN DELIBERATIONS; 4) OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES--

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COORDINATION, EVALUATION PROCEDURE, CONSOLIDATION OF FUNDS; AND 5) REORGANIZATION OF SECRETARIAT--TO FOLLOW FROM DECISIONS ON THE ABOVE AND TO ESTABLISH AN ORGANIC LINK BETWEEN CENTRALIZED DEPARTMENTS AND DECENTRALIZED OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES.

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